

12.1.15.1 CANCELLATION OF TREATMENT

"FAILED CYCLES"

a) Before Operation

A cycle is cancelled if the chance of obtaining healthy eggs is low. While they seem like setbacks at the time, these cycles teach us more about your hormone patterns, and almost everybody gets to theatre eventually.

Some of the reasons are:

1. Not enough follicles.
2. Hormone levels too low.
3. Unusual hormone patterns, previously seen to have a poor outcome.
4. Follicles on the wrong side, when scar tissue allows only one ovary to be accessible.
5. Ovarian cysts - these do not always make cancellation necessary, however they can confuse the test results. They usually resolve on their own and very rarely require treatment.
6. Missed ovulation - test results do not agree, or indicate that ovulation has occurred unexpectedly before admission to hospital. This means that it is impossible to determine the right time for the operation.
7. Rarely an industrial dispute or other circumstances beyond our control.

b) No eggs at ovum pick-up

This very rarely happens, where there is not access to the follicles, or ovulation has unexpectedly occurred.

Reasons and future plans are discussed and you will be discharged after the operation.

c) No fertilisation or embryo transfer

This happens in about 20% of patients who have eggs collected. Sometimes it is because of known problems such as low sperm count, sometimes because of unpredicted problems with eggs or sperm, and sometimes there is no obvious reason. This will be discussed with you and usually an appointment will be made to further review the situation and make future plans. Again it is important to let us know when the next period comes.

12.1.15.2 CANCELLATION OF TREATMENT

d) Embryo transfer but no pregnancy

This is still the commonest outcome of IVF and reflects our current state of knowledge. We are working all the time to find what is different about pregnancy cycles so that the chances may be improved. Usually, we will be unable to give a reason why the embryo transfer has failed.

TREATMENT CYCLE CANCELLATION.

For patients undergoing IVF or a related treatment cycle there is a risk of cancellation prior to egg collection due to poor follicle development. The risk of cancellation is approximately 1 in 5 or 20%.

WHAT DOES CANCELLATION MEAN?

In general it means that conditions for collecting good healthy oocytes are not optimal and cancellation is part of the treatment. Individuals respond differently to the hormone drugs used to stimulate follicle growth. A poor response in one cycle is not indicative of a poor response in another subsequent cycle. The Co-ordinating sister will warn you of impending cycle cancellation and she will discuss the outcome. The only drawback is the cost of the medications used.

HOW MANY CANCELLATIONS CAN I EXPECT?

Treatment for IVF and related procedures may involve many cycles of treatment. The criteria for cancellation means that on average there will be one cancelled cycle for every five cycles that proceed to egg pickup.

It may be necessary to cancel your treatment cycle on up to two consecutive occasions before recommending that a collection be attempted.

Your doctor will discuss this with you should the situation arise.